



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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September 2, 2003

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist *PBB*

SUBJECT: Site Inspection, Corporation of the Presiding Bishop, Little Cottonwood Granite Quarry, S/035/017, Salt Lake County, Utah

Date of Inspection: August 6, 2003

Time of Inspection: 4:35 to 5:10 p.m.

Conditions: Cloudy, 80's

Participants: Paul Baker, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

The operator's representative called and asked whether it was necessary to continue paying permit fees or if the notice of intention could be released. The primary purpose of the inspection was, then, to see whether vegetation meets revegetation criteria and how much damage has been done by climbers who appear to be trespassing on the property.

Observations:

The portion of the disturbed immediately adjacent to the road has been heavily affected by people parking cars there, and there is little vegetation.

There is a trail extending through the reclaimed area, and it appears people are mostly staying on this trail and off the rest of the reclaimed area. Parts of the trail have been lined with rocks.

Vegetation is progressing well in the upper part of the reclaimed area (Photos 1 and 2), but there is little perennial vegetation in lower areas (Photo 3). Most of the plants in Photo 3 are horseweed. The upper part also has more rock on the surface and several shrubs coming from between the rocks. The shrubs include elderberry, big tooth maple, big sage, and chokecherry.

I took measurements of the perennial vegetation cover in the reclaimed area and obtained an average value of 21.1 percent vegetation and 45.3 percent rock. Most of the cover in adjacent undisturbed areas is from trees, such as big tooth maple, in the overstory, and the Division previously estimated the cover in undisturbed areas to be about 50 percent.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

I do not believe it is reasonable to expect vegetation to become established next to the road or on the trails through the property. While the operator has put up fences in an effort to keep people out, there has been too much foot and vehicle traffic for vegetation to grow in these areas. It does not appear that the lack of vegetation will cause any environmental or public safety concerns.

Based on an estimated cover value of 50 percent in the undisturbed area, the standard for the reclaimed area would be 35 percent. At 21.1 percent, the vegetated areas have about 60 percent of the cover needed to achieve this standard.

The reclaimed area is different from most mine sites in that the surface has such a high percentage of cover from rocks compared to the adjacent undisturbed area. A direct comparison between these areas may not be valid. The upper portion of the disturbed area currently has as much vegetation as one could possibly expect a few years after reclamation. The shrubs are well established and have survived drought conditions for the last two years, but they would be expected to continue to grow and provide more cover.

I believe the operator should reseed the lower part of the disturbed area. With adequate precipitation, it should be possible for substantially more perennial vegetation to become established in this area in a short time.

cc: Kerry Nielsen, Corp. of the Presiding Bishop
Greg Baptist, Salt Lake County
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ATTACHMENT

Photographs

M/035/017, Little Cottonwood Granite Quarry, Corporation of the Presiding Bishop

Inspection Dated: August 6, 2003; Report Dated: September 2, 2003



Photo 1. Chokecherry, elderberry, big sage, and other perennial vegetation in the upper part of the reclaimed area.



Photo 3. Vegetation in the lower part of the reclaimed area. Note the lack of rocks compared to photos 1 and 2. Most of the plants in this photo are horseweed (*Conyza canadensis*).



Photo 2. Another view of the upper portion of the reclaimed area.